

REMARKS

Claims 4-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4-8 are amended. Claim 1 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in this claim. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

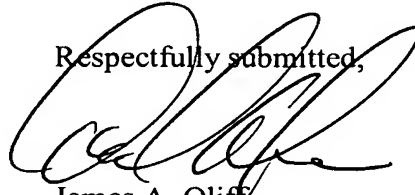
The Office Action, on page 3, indicates that claims 4-8 recite allowable subject matter. The Office Action indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants appreciate this indication of allowability, and base the amendments to claims 4-8 on this indication. Specifically, claims 4-8 are rewritten in independent form.

The Office Action, on page 2, rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,143,366 to Lu in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,548,342 to Suzuki et al. (hereinafter "Suzuki"). Claim 1 is canceled rendering this rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance based on the indicated allowability of the subject matter of claims 4-9. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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